

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W

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R 081415Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3480

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FOR AF/W BISHOP FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: SCUL GH

SUB: SMITHSONIAN BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO S. DILLON RIPLEY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION OR MRS. BERNICE REAGON THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT LIAISON OFFICER JAMES HURD:

2. IN RESPONSE RECENT LETTER TO ME FROM DILLON RIPLEY RE GHANAIAN PARTICIPATION BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE, I HAVE TALKED PERSONALLY WITH SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT'S RULING NRC WHO INFORMS ME THAT GHANA DOES NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE FUNDS TO FINANCE VISIT OF GROUP FOR FESTIVAL THIS SUMMER. SINCE MATTER HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO MANEUVERING OF MANY GROUPS WHO WISH TAKE PART, ABOVE DECISION GIVEN ME IN CONFIDENCE. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION EXPECTED INFORM EMBASSY OFFICIALLY IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. WE SUSPECT BUT CANNOT PROVE THAT BUDGET FOR REQUEST BASED ON 45-DAY EXCURSION FARE, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS NINE HUNDRED PER PERSON. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE ABLE PROVIDE TRIP FROM ACCRA JULY 7 AND RETURNING ACCRA AUGUST 14 AT APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY PER PERSON.

4. TWO ALTERNATIVES APPEAR POSSIBLE TO US IF SMITHSONIAN WISHES SALVAGE SITUATION;

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A. AMERICAN FUNDS BE FOUND AT ABOVE RATE FOR GROUP.

B. ADDITIONAL RENEWED EFFORT BE MADE WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO SEE WHETHER CUT IN FUNDS AS ENVISAGED BY AAI CHARTER WOULD MAKE TRIP FEASIBLE. (NOTE ALSO THAT AAI CHARTER FLIGHTS MIGHT AFFECT YOUR PLANS FOR SCHEDULING IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE.) SECOND ALTERNATIVE, EVEN IF FEASIBLE, WOULD TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO WORK OUT. IF YOU WISH PURSUE EITHER ALTERNATIVE, SUGGEST YOU CONTACT MEL JOHNSON, AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE, 833, UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NY.Y. 10017, TO VERIFY PRICE AND AVAILABILITY.

5. REGRET VERY MUCH THAT EMBASSY NOT INVOLVED EARLIER IN THIS PROJECT, SINCE INEVITABLE GHANAIA PROCRASTINATION DOUBLES TIME REQUIRED FOR DECISION EVEN AT BEST. PLEASE INFORM US URGENTLY WHETHER YOU DESIRE PURSUE EITHER OF ABOVE ALTERNATIVES.
HADSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ACCRA02530
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740111-1068
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740566/aaaacgwz.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SMITHSONIAN BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE
TAGS: SCUL, GH, SMI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005